

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ARTHUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

#### **Loxahatchee Boat Ramps Grand Opening**

On Wednesday, January 24, 2001, the four new boat ramps at the Hillsboro Area (or “south end”) of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge will be officially open to the public. A brief ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m.. Loxahatchee Refuge Manager Mark Musaus said, “Visitors to the Hillsboro Area will also see a lot of other positive changes in addition to the boat ramps, including a refurbished entrance area with new landscaping, as well as new fencing and signs that complement the new informational pavilion just built. The portable rest room facilities now have new privacy fencing and the entrance fee station is rebuilt and simplified.”

Located at the end of Loxahatchee Road (SR 827), six miles west of Highway 441 near Boca Raton and Deerfield Beach, the four boat ramps previously in disrepair have been replaced during the last four months. They are used by the majority of the more than 100,000 annual visitors to the Hillsboro Area of this 148,000 acre federal wildlife refuge.

Loxahatchee Refuge is a renowned fishery for largemouth bass, bluegill, and other sport fish. The Hillsboro Area offers wildlife observation, interpretive signs, and literature in addition to being a trailhead for the 12-mile hiking and bicycle trail that connects with our other primary access point. Total visitation to the refuge exceeded 300,000 people the past 12 months. Visitors came to the refuge to observe wildlife, photograph

nature, hunt waterfowl, fish, or participate in environmental education and interpretive programs. A visitor center, hiking trails, observation platforms, and a boardwalk are found at the refuge's other primary access point on Lee Road between Boynton Beach Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue just off of US 441/SR 7 in west Boynton Beach.

An entrance fee of \$5.00 per vehicle or \$1.00 per pedestrian is charged. A variety of annual passes, including a \$12.00 refuge specific annual pass is available. For more information, call the refuge visitor center at (561) 734-8303, or call the administrative office at (561) 732-3684.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of 531 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fish and wildlife management offices, and 78 ecological services field stations.

The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.